

NEW YORK HERALD

PUBLISHED BY THE SUN-HERALD CORPORATION, 250 BROADWAY, TELEPHONE, WORTH 10,000.

Directors and officers: Frank A. Munsey, President; Edwin Wardman, Vice-President; Wm. T. Dewar, Treasurer; R. H. Tilden, Secretary.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES: By Mail, Postpaid, One Year, \$12.00; Six Months, \$7.00; Three Months, \$4.00; Daily, \$1.00; Sunday, \$0.50.

FOREIGN RATES: Daily, \$2.00; Sunday, \$1.00; By Mail, Postpaid, One Year, \$24.00; Six Months, \$14.00; Three Months, \$8.00.

Branch Offices for receipt of advertisements and sale of papers: Principal Office, 250 Broadway, New York.

Principal American and Foreign Bureaus: Chicago, 208 South La Salle St.; London, 10, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

The New York Herald was founded by James Gordon Bennett in 1835. It remained the sole property of its founder until his death in 1865.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1920.

This Question of "Insurance"

Against War.

Further illustration of the difference between a phrase and a fact is supplied by our neighbor the New York Times in its comments upon the bulletin of Mr. Tarr's League to Enforce Peace, to which we referred yesterday.

The enthusiasm of Mr. Tarr's League over the "surprisingly small" premium of insurance which its actuaries have computed is shared by the Times. That journal remarks:

"If the United States were a member, it would have to contribute \$220,296 to the League budget of 1921. Compare this modest cost of the new machinery to prevent war with the cost of the system, under which the world groans, of preparing for future wars. . . . The only insurance against war is the League. The cost of belonging to it, as the League to Enforce Peace says, would be 'exactly one-tenth of 1 per cent. of what we spent on armament during a single year before the war, while it cost about one-tenth of 1 per cent. of what the direct cost of belligerency reached in 1918.' Of course, the indirect cost of war can only be guessed. Clearly, it is 'good business' for the United States to enter the League."

It happens that there could scarcely have been a more unfortunate day for this sort of arithmetic and this sort of argument.

When Mr. Tarr's League and our esteemed neighbor were explaining, to the delight of the ingenious, the microscope dimensions of the "premiums" the United States would have to pay for "insurance" against the horrors and colossal expenses of modern warfare, the League itself, in session at Geneva, was in a state of complete obfuscation on the question of Armenia—who shall fight Turkey, who shall pay the bills for the fighting, and so on. The general disposition to devote the entire job on the United States, if possible, was as plainly in evidence as the conflict of material and purely selfish national interests underlying the proposals of the great Powers now jealously watching each other's moves in the game for Asia Minor's future exploitation.

It was decided that somebody must do it, but who? Mr. STALAIKOVICH of Jugoslavia boldly declared that there had been too much high-sounding talk about Armenia; unless somebody applied some real coercion to MURPHY KEMEL, the League must confess its impotence before the world. But, again, who?

There is talk of instituting a "commission" for the serious case of Armenia, although the exact plan and functions of such a commission are not distinct in the Covenant. They can't find a mandatory for Armenia, try hard as they may to shoulder the job upon somebody else.

Mr. BALFOUR, declining for Great Britain the task of protecting Armenia, just as Mr. LLOYD GEORGE declined it months ago, when he told the Armenian committee in London that Uncle SAM, and not JOHN BULL, was the fellow for the work, expressed with customary grace and delicacy his profound regret that the performance of the United States with regard to Armenia had not coincided with the promises of President WILSON.

A mandate for Armenia, he said, had been offered to every one, but no one had cared to accept it. America was the ideal mandatory (if she would pay all the bills for the fighting with Turkey), but America had not seen her way to accept, and—note the following words—"no one else was willing to do so, unless other members of the League agreed to insure her against loss and provide a share of the money and men required."

And then Mr. VIVIANI for France: "America has refused. What can this commission do? Does Mr. BALFOUR suggest any reason why the proposed commission would succeed when the League Council, of which he is so eminent a member, has failed? Then 'in a ringing voice':

"Is there any nation that will accept the Armenian mandate to-day?"

You know there is none. You know in advance that the proposed commission is doomed to failure."

Simultaneously with the appearance of the statements calling attention to the surprisingly low cost of membership in the League and its consequent advantages to us as inexpensive "insurance" against war, comes the estimate that 60,000 men and \$100,000,000 would be the initial investment of the Power which undertakes alone to fight Turkey and save Armenia. What the final accounting would show in the totals of expenditure of life and treasure not even the mathematicians of Mr. Tarr's League and of our neighbor the Times are capable of computing into Arabic numerals.

Helgolanders Say Germans Plan to Retortify Their Island.

The island of Heligoland, which as the German Gibraltar has a power in the war out of all proportion to its size, has managed again to attract to itself, despite all of Europe's other troubles, an unusual degree of interest, if not of sympathy. Some fifty of the native inhabitants crossed to the German mainland in one of their own fishing boats and appeared at Berlin before the Prussian Government, to which they owe allegiance, and demanded their ancient rights. They were too poor to employ legal advice, so they presented their own claim, which was that, according to the agreement entered into between Germany and England in 1890, when the island became German, "native customs and laws now existing will, as far as possible, remain undisturbed." This clause, they declared, was being violated by Prussia with the evident intention of driving the native Helgolanders away from their island home.

The Prussian and German Governments held that they were no longer bound by this provision to respect the Helgolanders' rights. They had only to fulfil the conditions of the treaty of peace and this they did by destroying all the fortifications on the island and removing the mines in the harbor. At the beginning of the war every man, woman and child on the island was taken to Germany. All the houses that were built of inflammable material or that might obstruct the naval observers' view over the sea were torn down and the island became a great fort protected from allied navies for at least twenty-five miles in all directions.

After peace was declared all the Helgolanders who remained alive struggled back to their island and undertook to rebuild their homes and take up their old life. But the workmen whom Germany sent over to raze the fortifications and to destroy the submarine defences of the harbor have taken up their residences on the island and have been voting, the islanders declare, without right but with the connivance of the Prussian Government. The German Government finally agreed to grant the right of franchise only to persons who had been for three years residents of the island.

The Helgolanders, however, fear that this measure will not become a law until the Prussian workmen have gained a legal residence and secured such complete charge of the island affairs that the natives will be forced to abandon their homes and leave the island. The reason for these tactics, the Helgolanders assert, is that when the time comes for the refortification of the island, which they say will undoubtedly be done, "the German Government will prefer to be without a troublesome population to manifest an undue interest in the work."

Sugar for All the World.

Sugar production during the 1920-21 season will be with one exception the largest on record. The yield of the coming world crop is forecast at 17,085,500 tons in all countries, compared with the world's record crop of 18,067,399 tons in the 1913-14 campaign. After five years of short crops and difficult transport conditions nearly every one of the sugar producing countries is having more difficulty than ever in converting the staple into currency.

Cuba is in the midst of a moratorium and business is being done mostly for cash. Yet the crop coming forward will amount to about 4,000,000 tons, surpassing the yield early this year by more than 250,000 tons. Brazil has been experiencing financial difficulties, although her sugar crop will be 300,000 tons, almost double the last previous yield. Germany will more than double her 1920 crop with an estimated 1921 production of 1,150,000 tons.

Czecho-Slovakia started off this year with a brilliant prospect ahead for sugar sales and did well with her 1920 crop of 335,000 tons until the heavy slump in European exchanges. Her 1921 crop will total more than 650,000 tons, but, as in the other cases, the wide fluctuations in exchange have hindered selling futures for export. The Government will create a fund to stabilize exchange by pooling profits on all sales above 257,500 tons. An attempt will be made to create a reserve of 1,000,000,000 crowns.

Rubber, coffee and many other staple products have slumped, but the producers have had war profits to aid them. Sugar prices were fixed during the war and the consumption was limited by lack of transport. The one product countries depending on this article participated to a limited extent in war prosperity, although Cuba was a notable exception, her situation having been especially favorable.

But all the sugar producing countries were stimulated by the high prices of last spring and summer. As with cotton, however, the demand for sugar was not great enough to keep up inflated prices. Sugar producers deem the inevitable hardships they are going through an ill reward for their efforts to increase production and relieve a world shortage. Consumers do not feel so unhappy.

Belgian Trade With Germany.

Foreign trade figures for the first eight months of 1920 reveal that Belgium, like France, is not allowing sentiment to restrain her from resuming commerce on a large scale with Germany. The report follows (in millions of francs):

	Imported by	Exported by
From Belgium	486	778
United States	1,285	205
France	1,754	1,450
England	1,390	927
Italy	43	97

The Belgian franc is at a huge discount in London and New York, but is at a high premium in Germany. The 486,000,000 francs in goods imported from Germany and the 778,000,000 francs exported to Germany probably represent in quantity twice the volume of trade with this country, even after making allowance for inflated prices in Germany in terms of German money.

Another interesting fact is that, aside from the small balance in favor of Belgium in her trade with Italy, Germany is the only one of the other countries where Belgium has no trade deficit.

Vice-Presidents' Pay.

Last week a laborer in Illinois drew \$148 for six days' wages earned in carrying railroad ties. The salary of the Vice-President of the United States is \$230 a week.

There used to be a fiction that a President could not get along well on his official pay, but since the salary has been increased to \$75,000 a man is too poor to seek the honor. The Vice-President is different. The salary is only \$12,000 a year, an amount on which no New Yorker would try to make a splurge.

As rents and food are higher in Washington than in New York a Vice-President without a surplus must live modestly indeed. In fact, he must economize more than the occupant of such a place ought to be compelled to.

It is no wonder that there is now, as there has been in less expensive times, a feeling in Washington that the Government should provide living quarters for the Vice-President. Surely he is no less in dignity than the Governors of States.

Of an Historical Champagne Cooler.

A Senate champagne cooler sold for a dollar when a wonderful collection of objects of art and utility was cleared out of one of the cloak rooms of the "finest club in the world." If the collector who for so modest a price secured this interesting relic of a day that is gone be a philosopher, as a competent collector must be, he will draw out of his treasure more cause for pleasure than ever went into it. Hawthorne found material for one of his sweetest essays in the black bound and heavy volumes of sermons, no less dry and dusty than this cooler, he discovered in the attic of the Manse at Concord. Had he for inspiration the Senate champagne cooler, battered and worn from long service, a veteran it took a Constitutional amendment to separate from its Federal job, he would have written not one but countless essays; moral, political, biographical, ethical, sumptuary, social—topics bubble forth endlessly.

Who ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to purchase out of the Senate contingent fund that champagne cooler? When, why? To what account was it charged—soap, white brooms, rugs, carbonated water, hot racks? At whose orders was it first filled with cracked ice into whose filling depths was fondly thrust a bottle of champagne? Was there, in that ancient time, a New York Senator who referred to the bottle as "real wine?"

For what occasion was the wine cut to release the jealous cork penning a million bubbles eager, the playful sprites, to tickle the noses of grave but thirsty lawmakers? Was it to rejoice over victory in debate or to console a vanquished orator? What will replace the discarded treasure? Perchance a silver fruit basket, a pretty bonbonniere, an ornamented tea set, or a flagon for crusty, old Potomac water.

Dramatics and the Soldier.

The ingenuity of our Regular Army officers in turning materials at hand to the educational and vocational training of our soldiers has few better illustrations than their utilization of the enlisted man for theatricals in the tasteless manner. How this is done is described by Major-General PERRY in his annual report as Chief of Staff of the Army for 1920. Under the head of "Dramatics" he writes:

"The War Department determined, in creating a theatre programme, that amateur dramatics should not be neglected. A soldier-player company had already been formed at Camp Taylor, Kentucky. With its directorate for nucleus, the department proceeded to engage professional directors from civilian life, and companies were installed in Camps Taylor, Grant, Jackson, Pike, Meade, Dix, Gordon and Travis. A small amateur charge is made for the entertainments in order to procure funds

necessary to take care of such incidental expenses as care and furnishing of the wardrobe, building of scenery, royalty on plays, &c. These companies are self-supporting in each camp."

How this activity is turned to the uses of vocational training is thus shown by General MARCH, who says:

"As recreation the soldier players effect much; as vocational training the plan operates to good advantage. Quite apart from the profession of acting—instruction in carriage, deportment, diction, make-up—the mechanics of play production involves a number of other trades in which soldiers receive instruction. These include stage carpentry, stage electricity, house management, publicity, the box office, scene design and other pursuits tending to make of untrained men busy and interested citizens in civilian communities."

Since some of our best managers have risen from just such beginnings in the practical world of the theatre it may not be too much to expect from this teaching of dramatics in the army that some future Hopkins or Dillingham may set down in his autobiography that he first went on the stage at Camp Grant or learned house management in the Camp Dix theatre when he was a buck private.

Wanted: An American Naval Policy.

Admiral Sims set forth with unusual clarity what he called the "four elements" essential to assure an efficient navy when he addressed the graduating class of the Naval War College on Saturday, defining these elements in this manner:

"1. A fleet of adequate strength in each type of vessel that is necessary to the fighting efficiency of the whole.

"2. Personnel thoroughly trained in handling such a great force with the maximum possible efficiency.

"3. Thoroughly digested plans to meet the strategic and technical plans of our possible enemies.

"4. A logical organization for the administration of the navy as a whole, its maintenance in readiness during peace and its successful operation in war."

It is to the everlasting discredit of the United States that it has never consistently and persistently endeavored to attain the maximum possible development of these elements. Admiral Sims declared to his fellow naval officers that "none of these essential elements ever had been sufficiently developed to insure success in resisting serious aggression of a great power."

A constant source of embarrassment and apprehension to naval officers is found in the fact that our fleet has never been built up as a balanced whole, possessed of all the vessels of all the types needed to make it self-sustaining. It has always been lacking, in certain classes of fighting, scouting or service ships.

The condition existing to-day with regard to personnel is well known. The navy is short of officers now, as it has been for years, and it is short of enlisted men. Because of this, were the fleet called into action it would have to fight with green or half-trained men to handle the intricate and delicate machinery on which its units depend.

The other deficiencies pointed out by Admiral Sims were made humbly evident when we went to war. They have been exposed in official reports and in testimony given by many officers.

The American people are not getting what they pay for in their navy. It is time they did.

Without critical reference to the recent books by MARSH ANDERSON and COLONEL ROBERTSON, it is instructive to observe that these two gossip-hungry detractors have attention in London that have all the achievements of all other British writers since Armistice Day. Sometimes superior people ask to know why PERKS and BOSWELL remain good sellers!

Consular advices from south Russia report 75 cent cotton socks selling at 25,000 rubles. At that figure it would be no compliment to offer a Russian a kopek for his thoughts.

The Comptroller of the Currency reports that bank deposits dropped \$400,000,000 in four months. The Shipping Board dropped five times as much and never missed it.

Treasury tax returns show that 139 men who had incomes of more than a million in 1916 had to scrape along on less than a million in 1918. This may explain the recent warnings from high places that we are in grave danger of soap kitchens.

Week end Theft in Whitehall Building—Newspaper headline.

Evidently some of the less fashionable burglars do not go to their country homes on Friday night.

This is the day when most forward-looking turkeys dispose of their estates.

America has never collected a billion dollars in tariff revenues, and when Senator CURTIS proposes to do so he ignores past customs.

A robbery on the twenty-eighth floor of a downtown skyscraper may have been the first of the "dead line," but well-informed burglars long ago adopted the sky as the limit.

Causes for Thanking.

"It is not of extra pleasures that we would make our list, but of accustomed treasures that we have never missed.

The heater we take for granted, the coin that pays our way, the freedom pilgrims planned, the love of every day.

So lead the bird to slaughter, slip grados to the sky and give our thanks for water before the well runs dry.

MELANCTHON WILSON.

RAILROAD RATES.

The President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on State Rights.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I was much interested in your editorial article of October 19 in reference to the Carter wolf and the letter of Dixon Merritt, who came to the defence of H. P. Williams, the hunter.

Here in New Mexico the Government hunters have been uniformly successful in clearing the ranges of predatory animals. One of the hunters employed by the Government in this vicinity is Ben Lily, who is 65 years of age, and has hunted bears, mountain lions and wolves for the last forty-five years. Mr. Lily was a friend and adviser of Theodore Roosevelt and accompanied the latter in one of his bear hunts in the Mississippi cane brakes.

In spite of his years Mr. Lily can trail a mountain lion over the roughest sort of country and keep it up for ten days or more. They say the lion is not yet in existence which can get away from him. In the last few years Mr. Lily has taken over 150 lions in the Gila National Forest and the adjoining Apache National Forest in Arizona.

He usually travels alone with one or two hounds, a few supplies, a blanket thrown over his shoulder and his rifle. Once on the trail of a lion he stays with it until the lion is literally worn to a frazzle and is ready for the finishing shot. The trail often leads him over almost impassable cañons and mountain ranges, and the ordinary man, regardless of his years, would throw up his hands at attempting some of the obstacles to be overcome.

Mr. Lily, being very devout, will not hunt on Sunday, but makes camp wherever he happens to be on that day and again takes up the trail on the following Monday. He contends that the meat of a young mountain lion cannot be cooked by the finest tenderizer and having camped with him overnight in an Arizona cañon and given it a trial, I am inclined to agree with him. The Indians, it may be recalled, and especially the Apaches, were wont to subsist on mountain lion whenever possible in the belief that they were strengthened and made more supple by a diet of this sort.

The story of which Mr. Lily is made the chief character of the hunters employed by Uncle Sam, although he has never, it must be admitted, have reached his age.

FREDERICK WINN.

AMERICANS FIRST.

Why a Tennessee Republican Opposed a Victory Celebration.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I have never failed to vote in a county, State or national election since I was 21. My first vote was for William L. Logan, and I lost. I accepted defeat and watched the Democratic torchlight procession that passed my door.

Four years later I voted for General Harrison, who was successful that time, but lost the next time. Cleveland had been elected again and great preparations were made for a second torchlight procession in my town. Orders were issued by a Democratic Mayor and Board of Aldermen for everybody to illuminate along designated streets where the torchlight procession was to march.

Was notified to illuminate, and I said: "No, this is no occasion for me and my family to illuminate. I will not illuminate. Before the procession had reached my section the chief of police, a Democrat, came to me bearing illuminating lanterns for my windows and demanded that he be allowed to place them in their proper place. "No," said I, "this is no occasion for me to rejoice. I am defeated. You and your crowd have the joy you can get out of it, but I shall not celebrate my own defeat."

Whereupon he demanded that the lanterns be placed in my windows facing the street, and proceeded to place the lanterns. "Stop," said I, "the moment you enter my door at that moment I will shoot you and my gun is in my hand at the time. The lanterns were not placed; the procession passed on and out of sight."

Since then I have voted for each Republican candidate for President until 1912, when I voted for Woodrow Wilson. In 1915 I voted for Justice Hughes. "He kept us out of war" was elected, and we all know what a sad mistake that was. In 1920, November 2, I voted for Senator Harding and Calvin Coolidge; we all now have the results of that election.

By 5 o'clock on November 3 the band began to ring and it seemed that we must have a celebration and a torchlight procession in token of our victory. "No," said I, "this is not the time or place for such a demonstration. Tennessee has elected Alf Taylor as Governor, five out of the ten Representatives of Tennessee, the most glorious of all given by electoral vote to the cause of Republicanism, for which my own father gave his life that the Union might live. Tennessee is still a Democratic State, but if our party will not fall as we and the American people it may be we may give our vote on our side in future, but it depends on altogether upon whether we as a political measure up to what we should, or go off into a scramble for office, rewarding the faithful, as has the last Administration done."

"We are a free people, living under a republican form of government. We are not a democracy but a republic; do not forget that."

But in our last national election, thank God, a large majority of us were Americans first, and pray God we may ever remain such as long as the earth shall bear a plant or the sea roll a wave.

And when thrones of kings shall have crumbled into dust, when sceptres and diadems shall have been forgotten, the flag of our Republic shall float in pride, power and glory as long as we remain Americans first, and no longer.

O. R. FOX.

It All Depends.

Knicker—Some ask for bread and get a stone.

Knicker—And others ask for dough and get tinestones.

A Thirty Year Kentucky Family.

From the Lexington Leader.

The family of Mrs. Francis Gaskins, 78, Newport, claims the distinction of having cast thirty votes for Senator Harding. She was the first woman to register at her precinct, and with sons, their wives, grandsons and wives the family polled thirty votes.

A Texas Business Opportunity.

From the Dallas News.

Personally we do not claim to be much of a financier, but we have some blue sky stocks to exchange for greenbacks.

Briefly Stated.

From the Louisville Journal.

Any one found in or about my chicken houses will be found to have no more. My ends meet they call me vicious.

Virtue Malignant.

Thou shalt not eat what thou find I make my ends meet they call me vicious.

BEN LILY, MIGHTY HUNTER.

Roosevelt's Old Friend Has 150 Mountain Lions to His Credit.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I would like to supplement your editorial article of October 19 in reference to the Carter wolf and the letter of Dixon Merritt, who came to the defence of H. P. Williams, the hunter.

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MUSICAL ODDITY

Stravinsky Novelty Starts Many Discussions at Quartet's Opening Concert.

MAY BE ONLY A JOKE

Composition Is a Scherzo, but Where He Got It Is a Mystery.

Always the Flonazy Quartet seems to wish to be like "stout Cortez" with eagle eyes he stared at the Pacific. And they equally desire that their auditors, like the men under Cortez, shall look "at each other with a wild surprise." They secure the circling earth in search of the newest things in quartet guises and often they return with strange names. At the first concert of the season last evening in Aeolian Hall they produced their latest acquisition, a "Concertino compose pour le quatuor de Flonazy," by no less a personage than Igor Stravinsky, composer of "L'Oiseau Feu," "Petrouchka," and other mor